

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and claim 2 canceled to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance. The title has been amended to correct a spelling error.

The drawings are objected to because some reference signs/numerals shown in the drawings, are not described in the specification. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to provide antecedents for reference numerals 10, 30 and 5541. With regard to reference numeral "231" of Figures 8 and 9, it appears that the Examiner is referring to reference numeral "531". Figures 8 and 9 have been amended to delete reference numeral 531 and its designated line. The specification has been amended further to improve syntax.

All of the amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure of this application and therefore do not constitute the introduction of any new matter into this case.

In view of the amendments to the specification and the drawings, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3-6 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled and the elements of cancelled claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Dependent claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of cancelled claim 2. Independent claim 1, as presently amended, as well as dependent claims 3-6, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

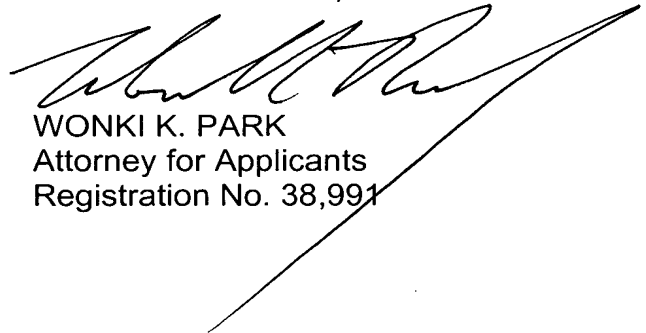
Application No.: 10/642,295
Group Art Unit: 3724
Examiner: Ghassem ALIE

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Allowable claim 2 has been rewritten as independent claim 1, and claims 5 and 6 depend therefrom, and therefore it is believed that claims 1, 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art individually or collectively shows the invention as claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims appears to be warranted and the same is respectfully requested. In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicants' Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



WONKI K. PARK
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,991

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BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: 703-683-0500
Facsimile: 703-683-1080

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